WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A system for updating an Instant Messaging (IM) application regarding a user of the IM application, wherein the updating is based on multimedia information, the system comprising:

an information capture module for capturing the multimedia information in the vicinity of a machine on which the user is using the IM application;

an information extraction and analysis module communicatively coupled with the information capture module, for extracting relevant information from the captured multimedia information; and

an information interpretation module communicatively coupled with the information extraction and analysis module, for interpreting the

extracted and analyzed information for the IM application, wherein the interpreted information can be used for updating the IM application.

2.   The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia information comprises at least one of audio information, still image information, and video information.

3.   The system of claim 1, further comprising:

an Application Program Interface module for the IM application, communicatively coupled to the information interpretation module, for receiving the interpreted information and updating the IM application regarding the user.

4.   The system of claim 3, wherein the Application Program Interface module is configured to update the user's status on the IM application.

5.   The system of claim 4, wherein the user's status comprises at least one of available, busy, on the phone, and away from the desk.

6.   The system of claim 3, wherein the Application Program Interface module is configured to update the user's identity on the IM application.

7.   The system of claim 6, wherein updating the user's identity on the IM application comprises logging out a previous user, and logging in the user on the IM application.

1   8.   The system of claim 1, wherein the information extraction and analysis

2   module employs face tracking techniques.

1   9.   The system of claim 1, wherein the information extraction and analysis

2   module employs motion detection techniques.

1   10.   The system of claim 1, wherein the information extraction and analysis

2   module employs face recognition techniques.

1   11.   A method for updating an IM application regarding a user based on

2   captured multimedia information, the method comprising:

3   receiving the captured multimedia information;

4   extracting and analyzing relevant information from the captured multimedia

5   information;

6   interpreting the analyzed information for the IM application;

7   providing the interpreted information to the IM application; and

8   updating the IM application based on the provided information.

1   12.   The method of claim 11, wherein the updating step comprises:

2   updating the status of a user of the IM application.

1   13.   The method of claim 12, wherein the extracting and analyzing step

2   comprises tracking a face.

1   14.   The method of claim 12, wherein the extracting and analyzing step

2   comprises detecting motion.

1   15.   The method of claim 11, wherein the updating step comprises:

2   updating the identity of the user of the IM application.

1   16.   The method of claim 15, wherein the extracting and analyzing step

2   comprises recognizing a face.